

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 18, 19, and 26-40 are pending in the present application, Claim 18 having been amended, Claims 20-25 having been canceled, and Claims 31-40 having been added. Support for the amendment to Claims 18 is found, for example, in Claim 20 and in the specification at page 22, line 32 to page 23, line 4. Support for new Claims 31-40 is found, for example, in the original claims, in the specification at page 22, line 32 to page 23, line 12, and in Figs. 39 and 40. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the title was objected to; the Abstract was objected to; specification was objected to under 37 CFR §1.75(d)(1) for failing to provide an antecedent basis for the subject matter of claim 20; Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; Claims 18, 19, 21, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Hsiao (U.S. Patent No. 6,209,193); Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hsiao in view of Iwasaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,549,978); Claims 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hsiao in view of Gill (U.S. Patent No. 6,788,502); Claim 20 was indicated to include allowable subject matter if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; and Claims 22-25 were objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but were otherwise indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

With respect to the objection to the title, a new title is provided. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

With respect to the objection to the Abstract, a new Abstract is provided that is less than 150 words. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the Abstract be withdrawn.

With respect to the objection to the specification, Applicants respectfully submit that this ground of objection is moot in view of the cancellation of Claim 20.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicants respectfully submit that this ground of rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of Claim 20.

In view of the indication of allowable subject matter, Claim 18 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 20. However, applicants respectfully submit that the language added to Claim 18 is supported by the specification at page 22, line 32 to page 23, line 4.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 18 complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The outstanding Office Action takes the position that Claim 20 is indefinite because it is unclear as to where the pair of extension regions is formed. Amended Claim 18 recites “forming a pair of projections extending from the first linear mask pattern....” Thus, the issue raised in the outstanding Office Action is believed to have been overcome. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language.

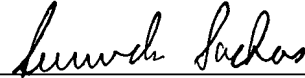
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 18 (and Claims 19 and 26-30 dependent thereon) are in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, new Claim 31 corresponds to Claim 22 written in independent form. As Claim 22 was indicated as including allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 31 (and Claims 32-40 dependent there on) are in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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